

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-5 and 7-31 are pending. In the final office action, claims 1, 5, 7-9, 17-20, 24 and 27 are rejected, claims 10, 15 and 23 are allowed, and claims 11-14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 28-31 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

At section claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Holehan* (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,918).

It is respectfully submitted that *Holehan* discloses an optical mouse pad or scroll pad, where all the infrared sources 20 and the infrared detector 24 are located in the central portion of the pad. In contrast, the light emitters and receivers of the claimed invention are disposed in a peripheral area adjacent to the designated interaction area so that the functions associated with the touch pad device can be shown in the designated interaction area. *Holehan* only uses the touch pad to obtain the fingerprint (col.4, lines 34-39), or to locate the position of the finger so as to move the cursor on the screen (col.4, lines 40-45). *Holehan* does not disclose or even suggest that a peripheral area adjacent to the touch area is used to dispose the light sensing components.

At section 7, the Examiner states that the peripheral area of *Holehan* comprises at least the area underneath the glass 22 and since the area underneath the glass is adjacent to the inner area or interaction area on the glass, the limitation of a peripheral area is met.

It is respectfully submitted that, in plain English, peripheral area is an area pertaining to the external boundary of a surface or area. For example, the peripheral area of a disk is the area near the circumference of the disk. According to Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, periphery is the extended boundary of any surface or area. Thus, the peripheral area is a part of the surface or area

As claimed in claim 1, the touch pad device has
an interaction area for allowing a user to use an object to interact with the touch pad device; and

a peripheral area adjacent to the interaction area, wherein the optical sensor components are provided on the peripheral area.

From the context of the claim language, it is clear the peripheral area and the interaction area are on the same surface of touch pad device, but they are of different parts of the surface, with the peripheral area being the external boundary of that surface. This means the optical sensor components are provided on the external boundary of the touch pad device.

Similarly, in claims 17 and 24, it is claimed that the touch pad device has a designated interaction area for allowing a user to use an object to interact with the designate interaction area, wherein the designated interaction area has

an inner area for designating one or more functions, and

a peripheral area adjacent to the inner area, wherein the first and second light emitters are provided at different locations on the peripheral area.

It is clear that the inner area and the peripheral area are on the same surface of the designated interaction area, but they are of different parts of the surface, with the peripheral area being the external boundary of the surface. The means that the first and second light emitters are provided at different locations on the designated interaction area, adjacent to the inner area of the designated interaction area.

In *Holehan*, the interaction area is the glass plate 22, while the optical components are located below the glass plate, separate from the glass plate. There is nothing on the external boundary of the glass plate 22.

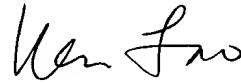
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 17 and 24 are distinguishable over the cited *Holehan* reference.

As for claims 5, 7-9, 18-20 and 27, they are dependent from claims 1 and 17 and recite features not recited in claims 1 and 17. For reasons regarding claims 1 and 17 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 7-9, 18-20 and 27 are distinguishable over the cited *Holehan* reference.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 5, 7-9, 17-20, 24 and 27 are allowable. Early allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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